

August 1, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, August 16, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Frenchglen School Gymnasium, Highway 205, Frenchglen, Oregon. The SMAC will break for a short field tour during the session on Friday and will reconvene at the Gymnasium at 1:00 p.m.

Matters to be addressed at the meeting include Stonehouse and Yank Springs Environmental Assessments, wilderness access/Cooperative Management Agreements, transportation, and if time allows, a discussion of wilderness zones and limits of acceptable changes. Other topics scheduled include a community update by the Frenchglen Community Club, a briefing on the status of the Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan, and a Designated Federal Official update. The SMAC will set agenda items for the October meeting, establish the schedule for calendar year 2003 meetings, review and update action items and recommendations, and address other matters that may reasonably come before the Council.

#####MORE#####

The field tour will leave the Frenchglen school at 9:30 a.m. and end at the Page Springs Campground around noon. Tour stops will include the Wildland Juniper Management Area, possible locations for an information kiosk, a possible relocation site of the North Loop gate, and the location of a new road advisory sign. The public is welcome to attend, however, they will need to provide their own transportation for the tour. Tour participants should plan on hot, dry weather and should bring plenty of water and any other personal items they might need.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting and tour, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday and 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker may address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes. Information to be distributed to the SMAC is requested 10 days prior to the start of the SMAC meeting and should be sent to Rhonda Karges, BLM, Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738.

Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the SMAC was established to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the boundary of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

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Members on the 12-person SMAC represent the following categories of constituents:

- No Financial Interest
- Grazing Permittee
- Environmental Representative-Local
- Wild Horse Management
- Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Fish and Recreational Fishing
- State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)
- Environmental Representative-State
- Dispersed Recreation
- Grazing Permittee
- Recreation Permit Holder
- Private Landowner

The Designated Federal Official for the SMAC is Thomas Dyer, Burns District Manager.

For more information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. People may also check the SMAC Web site at <www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac_index.htm>

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